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State of Union Address Pledges Firm Vietnam Stand

A strong reaffirmation of a firm U.S. military stance in Vietnam was presented Congress by President Johnson in his annual State of the Union address.

The President declared the U.S. will cooperate with the United Nations and other peace seeking groups in probing for a peaceful solution to the Southeast Asian war, but that until such efforts succeed "or until the infiltration ceases and the conflict subsides . . . we will stand firm in Vietnam."

Will Seek Tax Surcharge

President Johnson told Congress the cost of the Vietnam war would be high, both in life and personal sacrifice by the American taxpayer, proposing a six percent surcharge on corporate and individual income taxes to finance the continuing conflict.

Addressing a joint session of the Congress, the President stated such a proposal would raise revenues by an estimated $4.5 billion the first year.

The President asked the Congress to impose the surcharge for a period of at least two years "or for so long as the unusual expenditures associated with Vietnam continue."

President Johnson said the principal question in Vietnam "is whether we have the staying power to fight a costly war, when the objective is limited and the danger to us seemingly remote."

Action Prevents Larger War

He said the U.S. has chosen to fight a limited war in the Southeast Asian country in order to prevent a larger war, commenting that such a war is inevitable if the Communists succeed in taking over South Vietnam by force.

"If they are not checked now, the world can expect to pay a far greater price to check them later," the President declared.

President Johnson pointed out that in Korea the U.S. in cooperation with United Nations forces combined their efforts to stop another kind of aggression, stating that Asia might have a different complexion today if

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VIETNAM VISITOR—Gen. Harold K. Johnson (left), Chief of Staff of the Army, visits headquarters of the 1st Logistical Command, Saigon, during a tour of Vietnam. Accompanying the general are Brig. Gen. Shelton E. Lollis (center), acting CG of 1st Log, and Col. Paul A. Troup, chief of staff.

Army Named Executive Agent For Dependent Medical Care

Army has been named executive agent of the Defense Department and Department of Health, Education and Welfare for administering the new Dependent's Medical Care program.

The program, administered by Army in the United States and Puerto Rico for all the uniformed services since 1956, was expanded by Public Law 89-614, Sept. 30, 1966.

Administration responsibility has been extended to also include dependents and retirees in Canada and Mexico. Some benefits went into effect last October and the remainder became effective Jan. 1, 1967.

Generally, the greater benefits for active duty dependents include outpatient care in civilian institutions and hospitalization for chronic conditions, mental disorders and serious physical handicaps.

A new program was started for civilian inpatient and outpatient care for retired members, their dependents and deceased members' dependents.

Washington Memos

DEPARTMENT OF THE Navy has authorized a 75 percent guarantee of a $75 million loan to be made to Douglas Aircraft Co., of Santa Monica, Calif. Loan by an eight-bank consortium is to provide funds necessary in performance of prime and subcontracts for the military and NASA.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON PLANS to nominate to the Senate the reappointment of Gen. John P. McConnell as Air Force Chief of Staff for an additional two years beginning Feb. 1. Gen. McConnell assumed the chief of staff position in February 1965.

A $10 MILLION modification to existing contract is being issued for research and development work on EA6B aircraft. Naval Air Systems Command is issuing contract modification to Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp., Bethpage, L.I., New York.

TOP MEDICAL OFFICER of Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force is scheduled for Washington, D.C. arrival this month. RAdm. Koichi Minobe will make month-long tour, conferring with senior medical officers of nearly 30 U.S. naval commands.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS proclaimed February as American History Month. Chief Executive's proclamation invites appropriate ceremonies and related activities in educational, civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations.

TWO ARMY NURSES have received awards for RVN service. Lt. Col. Mary E. Donovan, former chief nurse, 85th Evac. Hosp., RVN, was awarded Legion of Merit. Maj. Kathryn C. Singer, former chief nurse, 2d Surgical Hosp., RVN, received Bronze Star Medal.

ABOUT APRIL FIRST, Air Force will begin air evacuation flights in C-141 jet aircraft from Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of Vietnam. Destination of these flights will be to Andrews AFB, Md., and Travis AFB, Calif. Until now such flights have been from Tan Son Nhut, RVN.

RECORD NUMBERS OF Naval Support Activity personnel, Da Nang, Vietnam, have extended their one-year tours of duty by six months or more. Since Nov. 1966, 273 men have extended their tours. Public law 89-735 allows each extendee 30 days of non-chargeable leave.

ARMY'S COMMAND Information Unit, Washington, D.C., is providing scrapbook of newspaper articles about the fighting soldier's unit in RVN. Members may request their own unit scrapbook once they return from RVN.

VIETNAMESE CULTURE TEAM of 20th ARVN Psychological Bn. provided USO type entertainment to U.S. forces and villagers in RVN. Members of U.S. 4th Inf. Div. carried show to forward troop areas and Montagnard villages near Plei Djereng. Group was composed of six women and 14 men performing in Vietnamese and English language.

FIRST FEMALE flight surgeon and only female doctor in the Air Force is Capt. Patricia A. Nell, officer-in-charge of the 820th Medical Group's aeromedical service at Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. Capt. Nell recently completed her first flight during a KC-135 mission.

AIR FORCE CHIEF of Chaplains, Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Edwin R. Chess will host a meeting of the Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agents Consultant Group, Jan. 16-18, that will include visits to Langley AFB, Va., and Maxwell and Gunter AFBs, Ala. Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agencies provide clergymen from local churches and synogogues to be commissioned as chaplains to serve spiritual needs of personnel in the Air Force.

HONOLULU AREA COMBINED Federal Campaign results reported by Chairman RAdm. H. S. Persons, USN, Commandant, 14th Naval District, show contributions exceeding last year's total by 58 percent. Collection totalled $779,062 this year as opposed to $492,981 in 1966. Figure also exceeded area's established goal of $525,000, representing 100 percent participation.

FIVE NEW 16mm Air Force films are available from base film libraries and film coordination agencies. Films cover airlift, B-52 Stratofortress operations in Southeast Asia, computer programming, tactical weather support and high-altitude balloon sampling.

ARMY'S TENTATIVE OFFICER promotion schedule for Jan. 10-31, 1967, indicates that more than 800 from captain through lieutenant colonel may expect promotion during this period. Seventy-six lieutenant colonels will advance to colonel, 268 majors will be promoted to lieutenant colonel and 521 captains will make major. Promotion list sequence for colonel promotion will end with 141, lieutenant colonel promotion will stop with number 3164 and the last sequence for major promotion will be number 5691.

CAPT. VERA M. JONES, Hq. Co. CO, Woman Officer School, MCS Quantico, Va., slated to be first Woman Marine officer assigned duty in Vietnam. Capt. Jones is due in Saigon in June to assume duties as OinC, Marine Corps Personnel Section, Personnel Management Branch, Personnel Division, U.S. Military Assistance Command.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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State of Union

the free world had failed to act when Communist forces spilled over into South Korea.

"We are dealing," President Johnson said, "with a stubborn adversary committed to the use of force and terror to settle political questions."

In reaffirming the U.S. policy in Vietnam, the President said he wished he could report that the end to the conflict was in sight. "This I cannot do. We face more cost, more loss, and more agony."

End Not Yet In Sight

The end, the President said, is not in sight, nor will it come in this year or the next. While the President said he expects a longer and tougher conflict to develop in Vietnam, he reported that Gen. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, has stated that the Communists "no longer can succeed on the battlefield."

The President again stated that the U.S. is in Vietnam because this nation and "our allies are committed by the SEATO Treaty to 'act to meet the common danger' of aggression in Southeast Asia."

He said the U.S. has joined in combat with the North Vietnamese because North Vietnam has systematically violated an international agreement of 1962 that threatens the independence of South Vietnam and of all the small nations in Southeast Asia.

One result of the conflict in Vietnam, the President said, was that the people of Asia now realize that the door to independence is "not going to be slammed shut. They know that it is possible for them to choose their own national destinies—without coercion."

Praise For U.S. Forces

President Johnson praised the performance of the almost 500,000 troops in Vietnam, stating that these men—backed by the American people—have created an atmosphere of confidence and unity among the independent nations of Asia and the Pacific.

"Fear of external Communist conquest . . . is subsiding—and with this, the spirit of hope is rising. For the first time in history, a common outlook and common institutions are . . . emerging," President Johnson said.

The President said the U.S. is eager to turn its resources and efforts to peace and pledged that the moment peace comes, "I will ask the Congress for funds to join in an international program of reconstruction and development for all the people of Vietnam."

MUSEUM PIECE—Maj. Gen. Ernest F. Easterbrook, deputy CG, Sixth Army (right), presents the fabric from part of the wing of a World War I German Fokker aircraft to Maj. Gen. Carroll W. McColpin, commander, 4th Air Force, Hamilton AFB, Calif. The prize was obtained by Gen. Easterbrook's deceased brother. The relic will be shipped to the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Sec. Ignatius Cites Need To Maintain Supply Flow

Relationship between the Department of Defense and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service has been excellent, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations & Logistics) Paul R. Ignatius said at the 1967 seminar of the FMCS.

He added there is a need for quicker identification of labor disputes which may seriously affect defense programs.

Mr. Ignatius said the Southeast Asian conflict, the present international situation and U.S. military commitments make it imperative "that we provide our forces with an uninterrupted flow of supplies and equipment.

"Work stoppages resulting from labor disputes can jeopardize that objective.

"We must therefore work to minimize interruptions in deliveries of defense items due to labor-management disputes."

He pointed out that it is DOD policy to maintain neutrality in labor-management disputes and rely on congressionally-established civilian agencies to handle collective bargaining matters.

To remove possible confusion, he explained, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, not the military department, will make final judgment regarding the degree of defense impact on a critical labor dispute.

Government Buys Trailers From Service Personnel Relocated from France

The U.S. Government is purchasing privately owned trailers from service personnel being relocated from France.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe has made arrangements for purchases from Army, Navy and Air Force personnel who would otherwise suffer financial loss because of involuntary relocations.

Involved are 267 trailers, with purchase prices ranging from $365 to $3,333. Following U.S. acquisition, the trailers will be made available for direct sale or disposed through redistribution and marketing.

USAFE is acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force, who was recently designated as DOD executive agent.

Army School Names Marine 'Exceptional' Grad

A 50-year-old Marine Reservist volunteered to attend the Army Airborne School, Ft. Benning, Ga., and was named "exceptional" graduate in the 374-student class.

First Sergeant Robert H. Heimmiller, 4th Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, requested active duty to attend the school. An interior decorator from Florida, he is the oldest enlisted man ever to attend the course.

He was awarded jump wings in the drop zone after making his fifth jump.

Army Publishes Writer's Aid

An 89-page publication, "Quotes for the Military Writer," has been prepared by Army's Command Information Unit to help prepare articles and speeches.

Content consists of timely statements and quotes in categories most frequently used by personnel and a 16-page cross index by category and author.

GMCM Delbert D. Black, USN

Navy Names GMCM Black To Senior Advisor Post

Master Chief Gunner's Mate Delbert D. Black has been named the Navy's Senior Enlisted Advisor.

Black, 44, received his new assignment at ceremonies at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif.

The position, Navy officials said, is equivalent to the Sergeants Major of the Army and Marine Corps. Black's new duties will include counseling the Navy on problems of enlisted personnel and providing enlisted guidance and leadership in the highest naval councils. He will work directly for the chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

AF Training Courses Move

To accommodate undergraduate pilot training at Randolph AFB, Tex., several training functions are being relocated. Air Training Command courses in T-37 and T-38 aircraft will move to Perrin AFB, Tex., and Tyndall AFB, Fla., by the end of FY68. Early this year C-47 and T-28 Military Assistance Program activities will move to Keesler AFB, Miss.

DOD Seeks Further Research in Nuclear 'Decoupling' Project

Results from firing an underground nuclear device have been sufficient to warrant further research in the decoupling theory, according to the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The test shot, conducted under Project Sterling, was fired for ARPA by the Atomic Energy Commission "to develop a better understanding of the problems of seismic detection and to verify a theory — decoupling — which was first advanced in 1959 by a group of scientists at Rand Corp."

Decoupling is the absorption of nuclear blast waves in air, and the Sterling tests showed it would be possible to muffle significantly an underground nuclear explosion by firing it in a cavity.

Because of test results, ARPA has requested AEC to conduct a feasibility study of mining or leaching of a large deep cavity in salt under a new program titled Project Payette.

AF Curtails Enrollment In Some Air U. Programs

Air Force is curtailing professional education programs conducted by Air University to assure full support of Air Force operations in Southeast Asia.

Enrollments for FY68 at the Air War College and Air Command and Staff College are being reduced to 30 percent of normal quota.

Squadron Officer Course enrollments were reduced to a minimum of 30 percent beginning with the January class.

In an all-command letter, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Bruce K. Holloway urged commanders to explain to officers reasons for the reductions and to stress that the reductions are not to be construed as a decrease in importance of the Air Force's professional schools.

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